

Hello, I am Umair Zafar and I am against the Governor's proposed budget to cut UConn funding by 40 million dollars. As an UConn student, I believe that the cutting funding to UConn would be a mistake.

Decreasing the budget would force the University to compensate by raising tuition and not everyone is fortunate enough to afford such a hike. Tuition is already expensive enough as it is and if it goes up, some people are going to be left behind. I'm an immigrant and I remember when my dad told me why we moved to the United States of America. He told me it was for education and opportunity. That's what the United States isn't it? The land of opportunity. Taking away opportunities through a budget cut from students who are working hard and struggling to afford an education doesn't seem right to me.

Cutting money from mental health services also seems unnecessary. University is a massive adjustment for some people and can take its toll on one's mental health. I have a friend who has struggled with mental health issues for a long time. She told me how fortunate she was that UConn had good mental health services. How are students supposed to be away from home for such a long period of time, with massive amounts of work, without adequate mental health services?

I am here tonight not only for myself but for those who cannot because they are working to pay off the massive costs of college or are struggling with their own demons during a time of great stress. I thank you for your time.